

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 14 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. KOREA

SATURDAY SK AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED ARREST OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER ON SUSPICION OF HAVING ACCEPTED ABOUT 100,000 DOLS FROM KOREAN IMPORTER IN RETURN FOR PROMISES TO PRESS GOVT GRANT BUSINESSMAN FERTILIZER IMPORT MONOPOLY. REP HONG PYONG CHOL, MEMBER OF PARK'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY, SECOND ASSEMBLY MEMBER ARRESTED ON CORRUPTION CHARGES IN LESS THAN 6 MONTHS (NYT, WSTAR 2/13).

NYT SPEC (SEOUL 2/12) REPORTS PRES PARK STUNNED COUNTRY BY THURS ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS TO BUILD NEW CAPITAL ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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60 MILES SOUTH OF SEOUL. NOTES NEWS CAUSED SHARP DROP IN STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES, VIRTUALLY BROUGHT REAL ESTATE TRANS-ACTIONS TO HALT.

2. INDOCHINA

PRES CARTER 2/11 SIGNED INTENTION PURSUE NORMAL DIPL RELS W/VN, ANNOUNCED PLANS SEND US DELEGATION TO DISCUSS MIAS, WIDE RANGE OTHER ISSUES. NO TIMETABLE OFFERED, NO EMISSAR-IES NAMED; NO IMMEDIATE INDICATION FROM VN WHETHER SUCH

MISSION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE--THO WH/DOS SOURCES SUGGEST PROPOSAL FINDS FAVOR IN HANOI (WOOTEN, NYT 2/12; ABRIDGED IN WSTAR 2/12). SCOTT (WP 2/12) REPORTS CARTER STATEMENT MADE AT MTG W/MIA KIN, W/BRZEZINSKI SITTING IN.

BUTTERFIELD (NYT 2/12) REPORTS SOME FORMER SVN OFFICERS/ CIVIL SERVANTS STILL HELD PRISONER BEING TRANSFERRED TO CAMPS NEAR HANOI. SEES TRANSFERS AS 1 OF NUMBER INDICATIONS COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES STILL DEALING SEVERELY W/ SVN POPULATION, W/MANY STILL IN HARSH RE-EDUCATION CAMPS, OTHERS RESETTLED IN BARREN "NEW ECONOMIC ZONES," RC PRELATES BEING ARRESTED. FLOW NVN OFFICIALS TO SVN CONTINUES. BRADSHER (WSTAR 2/12) SAYS SVIETS RESIST NVN TAKEOVER; SOME VIOLENTLY, BUT MOST BY PASSIVE DISLIKE AS CONTROLS TIGHTEN. NOTES LARGE-SCALE POPULATION MOVEMENTS UNDERWAY, GOODS SENT S TO N; REMOLDING SVN APPARENTLY NOT GOING SMOOTHLY. REVIEWS REPORTS CONTINUING ARMED RESISTANCE. DESCRIBES NVN METHODS ELIMINATING OPPOSITON, TURN SVN INTO NATION'S FARM.

VN READY EXPAND ECONOMY, WOOS FON INVESTORS W/DRAFT INVESTMENT RULES, CONCESSIONS (REUTER, WP). SUN (2/13) CARRIES NYT ARTICLE RE FRENCH NUN WHO SPECIALIZES IN REHABILITATING PROSTITUTES; INVITED VISITS SVN, DUE CONCERN OVER VD RATE.

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BRADSHER (2/12) NOTES VN RECENTLY SENT MORE TROOPS INTO LAOS TO TRY CHECK WIDESPREAD GUERRILLA ACTIVITY AGAINST PL GOVT. ADDS US OFFICIALS DENY CIA INVOLVED.

3. INDOCHINA/THAILAND

CAMBODIAN EMB AT PEKING ISSUES MEMO ACCUSING "THAI FASCIST MILITARISTS" OF INCREASING "AGGRESSION" VS CAMBODIA. MEMO FOLLOWS JAN 28 BORDER INCIDENT (AFP, NYT 2/13).

4. THAILAND

THAI CROWN PRINCE ESCAPES UNHURT WHEN COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS AMBUSH HIS MIL TRUCK WHILE ON INSPECTION VISIT TO GOVT OUTPOST IN N (CSM; REUTER WP, NYT).

SUN (2/13) CARRIES (REUTER) STORY LONE RC PRIEST WHO TRAVELS AMONG S THAILAND'S JUNGLE GUERRILLAS ON MOTOR SCOOTER TO TRY TEACH CHRISTIANITY, SUPERVISE OLD PEOPLE'S HOME/SCHOOL.

LEVY (NYT 2/13) DESCRIBES FRENETIC 49-HR TOURIST VISIT TO BANGKOK. MENTIONS MIDNITE CURFEW HAS CHANGED NIGHT-LIFE. DESCRIBES INTERESTING SIGHTS/PEOPLE.

5. CHINA

PRC PRESS SAID 2/12 THAT TIBETAN SOLDIER TSA CHIANG, WHO SACRIFICED LIFE IN ORDER SAVE 300 IN OCTOBER 1975, IS NOW PEOPLE'S HERO (REUTER, NYT 2/13).

REFUTING CHARGES BY WIFE OF WANG HSIANG-NAN IN 1/30 STAR, ROC PRESS COUNSELOR FRANK TAO CONTENTS THAT HER ALLEGATIONS THAT SPOUSE HAD BEEN "LURED OUT OF THE UNITED STATES AND KIDNAPPED FOR TRIAL" ARE "COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS." SAYS TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND STATED WANG RETURNED FROM HK WITH VALID ROC VISA, WAS SUMMONED FOR TALKS AND INVESTIGATION. UNCLASSIFIED

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TION LATER IN OPEN TRIAL HE ADMITTED TERRORIST ACT, AND WAS CONVICTED 1/28. TAO MAINTAINS ONLY WANG ARRESTED AND TRIED, NO OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS SO FAR INVOLVED (WSTAR 2/11).

6. JAPAN

COOPER (JOC) REPORTS GOJ NEGOTIATORS SEE SEVERAL UNSOLVED PROBLEMS IN US-JAPAN FISHERY AGREEMENT. MAJOR COMPLAINT IS FEE SCHEDULE, WHICH JAPANESE FEAR WILL HAVE "SERIOUS ECONOMIC EFFECTS" ON THEIR INDUSTRY.

TRIALTERAL COMMISSION FOPOL PAPER, WHOSE DRAFTERS INCLUDE BRZEZINSKI/ECON ASST SEC COOPER, CALLS FOR "RENOVATED INTL SYSTEM" BASED COORDINATED FOPOL/ECON PLANNING BETW US/W EUR/JAPAN. DRAFT REPORT PREPARED LAST NOV, UNDERWENT MINOR REVISIONS IN JAN AT TOKYO MTG, SCHEDULED BE PUBLISHED NEXT MONTH (NOVAK, CSM).

SEIDEN (SUN) DOES ITEM ON JAPAN'S 3.2-BIL-DOL-A-YEAR PUBLISHING INDUSTRY, WHICH HAS GONE VIRTUALLY UNNOTICED ABROAD. NOTES IN SINGLE RECENT YR, JAPAN PUBLISHED MORE SEPARATE TITLES THAN ANY WESTERN NATION OUTSIDE US/FRG.

SUN (2/13) PRINTS NYT ARTICLE ON TRADITIONAL WINTER TATAMI (STRAW MAT) REWEAVING/REBINDING/REPLACING BY JAPAN'S LOCAL TATAMI MAT MAKERS.

7. SINGAPORE

POLICE VIGILANCE INCREASES AFTER RECENT ATTEMPT BY SINGAPORE'S LONG-DORMANT "TRIAD" SECRET CRIMINAL SOCIETIES TO REVIVE GANGLAND ACTIVITIES. ACTING ON TIP, POLICE RECENTLY RAIDED SEVERAL HIDEOUTS, ARRESTING 2 TRIAD LEADERS/ 5 OTHER KEY MEMBERS ASSIGNED TO INITIATION CEREMONIES (REUTER SUN 2/13). UNCLASSIFIED

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8. INDONESIA

MCDONALD (WP) REPORTS OBSERVERS IN INDONESIA UNSURPRISED AT ALLEGED BRIBERY IN CONNECTION W/COUNTRY'S SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, AND DESPITE SUHARTO'S CALL FOR FULL INVESTIGATION, MANY WILL WITHHOLD JUDGMENT UNTIL SEEN HOW VIGOROUSLY ANTI-CORRUPTION DRIVE PUSHED AFTER 5/2 GENRL ELECTIONS. SAYS PATTERN OF PAYOFFS/COMMISSIONS THAT ALLEGEDLY OCCURED SO PERVASIVE THAT MANY OBSERVERS WONDER WHETHER IF IT CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS IRREGULARITY.

GOTTSHALK (WSJ) INTERVIEWS FORMER PERTAMINA CHIEF SUTOWO AT BOB HOPE GOLF CLASSIC IN PALM SPRINGS. SUTOWO SAYS GOVT "RESTRICTIONS," NOT HIS QUESTIONABLE LOAN PRACTICES, PLUNGED OIL FIRM INTO GRAVE DIFFICULTIES. NOTES SUTOWO HAD LITTLE COMMENT ON CONTROVERSIAL NYC INDONESIAN RESTAURANT CRITICIZED BY SEC, WALKED AWAY TO GOLF TEE WHEN ASKED ABOUT 1 BIL DOLS IN PROMISSORY NOTES BEARING HIS SIGNATURE.

9. AUSTRALIA

AT END 5-DAY PNG VISIT, FRASER SAID AUSTRALIA WELCOMES CARTER'S CONCERN FOR NUKE DISARMAMENT, WOULD APPLY STRICT CONTROLS ON URANIUM EXPORT (AP, WP 2/12).

BRUSHFIRES RACED ACROSS VICTORIA OVER WEEKEND, KILLING 5 PERSONS/MILLIONS OF FARM ANIMALS (UPI, NYT; WP).

SUN (2/13) PRINTS NYT ITEM ON HOW CONSERVATIONISTS' SEEKING DEAL W/OVERCROWDING PROBLEM OF SHEEP/CATTLE/KANGAROOS IN AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK.

10. PHILIPPINES

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IN 2/12 INTERVIEW, MARCOS LINKED ENDING OF MARTIAL LAW TO US' ASIAN POL, PARTICULARLY OUTCOME BASE NEGOTS. FROM CARTER, MARCOS SEEKS ASSURED DEFENSE IF PHILS ATTACKED, ECONOMICAL SELF-RELIANCE/DEFENSE PROJECT, HELP IN RECTIFYING "INJUSTICES COMMITTED " BY USG AGAINST PHILS' MAHOGANY/COCONUT OIL EXPORTS (WSTAR 2/13).

REUTER'S BICKLER (2/12) REPORTS CHRISTIANS LIVING IN S PHILS CONCERNED OVER PROPOSED AUTONOMY. HIGH-RANKING CATHOLIC CLERGYMAN WONDERS WHETHER SAFEGUARDS FOR CHRISTIANS WILL EXIST UNDER ISLAMIC AUTONOMY. EXACTLY HOW IT WILL BE GRANTED/HOW REGION'S PROPOSED ELECTED ASSEMBLY WILL BE SET UP IS AT HEART OF TRIPOLI TALKS, SCHEDULED

FOR COMPLETION 3/3.

CARLSON (WSJ) FINDS PHILS' REACTION TO CURRENT PRICE-DEPRESSING GLOBAL SUGAR GLUT HAS SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS FOR WORLD SUGAR MARKET. PHILS IS 8TH LARGEST PRODUCER IN WORLD/4TH LARGEST EXPORTER. WHAT HAPPENS TO SUGAR INDUSTRY IN PHILS WILL PROBABLY BE DUPLICATED IN MANY OTHER SUGAR-GROWING COUNTRIES WHOSE ECONOMIES DEPEND LARGELY ON THAT COMMODITY.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

11. JAPAN

OKA (CSM) BELIEVES CURRENT JAPAN-EC TRADE DISPUTE HAS SHOWN NEED FOR BOTH SIDES KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. SUGGESTS DEVELOPMENT SAME TYPE LINKS US HAS W/EUR. CONCLUDES JOURNALISTS/POLITICIANS/BUSINESSMEN ON BOTH SIDES, CONSCIOUS OF GAP, NOW BEGINNING INCREASE FREQUENCY OF CONTACT.

12. PHILIPPINES

CAL STATE SEA HISTORY PROF ONORATO (LAT 2/11) SAYS US UNCLASSIFIED

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BASES "STRATEGICALLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER." ADVOCATES RETAINING "FULL OPERATIONAL CONTROL" OVER THEM, GAINED IF NECESSARY BY CARTER "POLITELY" REFUSING ANY REQUEST FOR AID CREDIT, OR THREATENING TERMINATE ALL AGREEMENTS ON MIL HARDWARE REPLACEMENT. BELIEVES US SHOULD PAY RENT/US MIL SHOULD BE "LESS ABRASIVE," BUT CHIEF OBJECTIVE MUST BE HOLDING ON TO BASES.

13. KOREA

CSM SAYS HOUSE ETHICS CMTE HAS EARNED SO MUCH CHASTISEMENT FOR TORPOR OVER YEARS THAT IT SHOULD BE SPURRED ON NOW THAT HAS BESTIRRED ITSELF TO LAUNCHING FULL-SCALE PROBE INTO ALLEGATIONS OF SK BRIBERY TO INFLUENCE USG DECISIONS. MAINTAINS FACTS MUST BE KNOWN, STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT REPETITION ANY WRONGDOING THAT IS CONFIRMED.

LAT (2/11) TAKES "WE SHALL SEE" ATTITUDE TOWARD HOUSE ETHICS CMTE INVESTIGATION. SAYS ANY SKEPTICISM ABOUT VIGOR/COMPREHENSIVENESS WITH WHICH CMTE'S PROBE OF ITSELF WILL BE CARRIED OUT STEMS FROM FACT HOUSE WAS GLACIALLY SLOW RESPONDING TO SK INFLUENCE PEDDLING REPORTS, AND BECAUSE SOME VERY IMPORTANT HOUSE MEMBERS HAVE BENEFITTED FROM SK HOSPITALITY/FAVORS. STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF FULL EXPOSE; WHETHER THROUGH JUSTICE DEPT OR HOUSE, "ANSWERS MUST BE PROVIDED."

WSTAR'S SARRO (2/13) SAYS HOUSE ETHICS CMTE'S SK PROBE COULD BE "BIGGEST POLITICAL SHOW IN TOWN THIS YEAR." NOTES LARGE NUMBER PEOPLE APPLYING FOR JOBS ON SPECIAL COUNSEL LACOVARA'S STAFF. THINKS WILL PROBABLY BE SUMMER BEFORE STAFF READY PRESENT FIRST CASES FOR CONSIDERATION. SUGGESTS ROKG'S EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS ASSIST IN PROBE COULD BE IMPORTANT IN DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE ABOUT KIM SANG KEUN/TONGSUN PARK ACTIVITIES.

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GLOBE (2/13) CARRIES SZEP CARTOON VALENTINE, "BE MY VALENTINE," WITH TONGSUN PARK POSING AS CUPID. LEGEND READS: "MESSENGERS' INSTRUCTIONS--PLEASE DELIVER TO CAPITOL HILL IN PLAIN BROWN ENVELOPES."

14. CHINA

NCNA'S (2/11), DRAWING FROM US PRESS ARTICLES REFLECTING PRC VIEW, INDICATES PEKING'S CONCERN ABOUT CARTER'S PURSUIT OF DETENTE WITH SOVIETS SAYS MUNRO IN CSM (ABRIDGED WP 2/12).

CITING USG SOURCES, DREW MIDDLETON (NYT 2/13) WRITES THAT PRC ABOUT TO OPEN LONG-TERM OIL EXPORT TALKS WITH JAPAN. AGREEMENT COULD PAY PRC POLITICAL DIVIDENDS (E.G. DIVERT JAPANESE INTEREST FROM DEVELOPMENT SOVIET'S SIBERIAN OIL/GAS RESERVES, WITH CONSEQUENT SLOWDOWN IN DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET RESOURCES REDUCING PRC PERCEPTIONS OF THREAT ON NORTHERN FRONTIER). WILLINGNESS ACCEPT FOREIGN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, FACTOR DEVELOPMENT PRC OIL RESOURCES.

ACCORDING LAT'S LESLIE, PRC RADICAL-SUPPORTED YOUTH RUSTICATION (DCY) PROGRAM HAS CONTINUED FUNDAMENTALLY UNCHANGES, DESPITE PURGES AND YOUTH DISSATISFACTION DUE TO OVERPOPULATED CITIES' INABILITY TO ABSORB LARGE LABOR FORCE, RELATIVE RURAL LABOR SCARCITY AND PRC DEPENDENCE ON SUCCESS IN AGRICULTURE (2/11).

15. GENERAL

RESTON (NYT 2/13) OBSERVES JAPANESE/MEXICAN/CANADIAN LEADERS ALL NOW VISITING WASHINGTON, ATTEMPTING INFLUENCE NEW PRES, HIS BUDGET. NOTES CARTER MOVING TO SEEK PANAMA COMPROMISE, TALK WITH CUBANS, SENDING MISSION TO RESTORE COMMUNICATIONS WITH VN, OFFERING CONSULT WITH ALLIES IN THIS HEMISPHERE/EUROPE/JAPAN NEW TRILATERAL RELS--IN UNCLASSIFIED

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EFFECT, ADOPTING "MORE HOPEFUL VIEW OF HUMAN NATURE."

RESTON SEES, HISTORICALLY, "SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THE ATTEMPT," SINCE US "ASSUMED THE WORST" ABOUT MONOLITHIC COMMUNISM, WHICH BROKE APART IN SINO-SOVIET CONFLICT. RECALLS HOW, FEARING PRC THREAT, "WE STUMBLED INTO KOREA; AND FEARING THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM AND THE 'DOMINO THEORY' IN SEA, WE STAGGERED INTO THE TRAGEDY OF VN."

IN 2/13 WP, SEN HATHAWAY (ME) VOICES FAITH IN FAIR TRADE. NOTES DOMESTIC SHOE MANUFACTURERS ARE PROHIBITED SELLING INTO MOST COUNTRIES THAT EXPORT SHOES TO US--SK HAS TOTAL EMBARGO; AMONG OTHERS, AUSTRALIA/JAPAN IMPOSE STRINGENT QUOTA RESTRICTIONS; ROC IMPOSES STRICT LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS; WHILE US HAS MOST LIBERAL POLICY TOWARD SHOE IMPORTS, OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN PROTECTING THEIRS FOR YEARS, WILL CONTINUE DOING SO. HATHAWAY ENDORSES ITC'S TARIFF-QUOTA RECOMMENDATION AS MODERATE WAY STABILIZING SHOE IMPORTS/PRESERVING EXISTING JOBS.

16. ADD NEWS - PHILIPPINES

KAMM (NYT 2/13) IN INTERVIEW NOTES MARCOS SUGGESTED NEGOTS RESUMED W/USG IN WASHINGTON MTG BETW PHIL AMB/DOS' HABIB AT WHICH "FIRST AGREEMENT IS NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ON THE BASES."
VANCE

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